

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub A1
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1. A decoding apparatus comprising:
 - a) input means for inputting a bitstream obtained by coding a plurality of object data in units of objects and multiplexing the coded data;
 - b) separation means for separating coded data of each object from the bitstream;
 - c) selection means for selecting a predetermined object from the plurality of objects contained in the bitstream;
 - d) decoding means for decoding the coded data of the object selected by said selection means and outputting object data; and
 - e) synthesis means for synthesizing the object data decoded by said decoding means.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the bitstream is a bitstream complying with MPEG4.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the bitstream input to said input means is scrambled, and said input means comprises descrambling means for descrambling the scrambled bitstream.

4. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

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5. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said apparatus further comprises read means for reading descrambling data for descrambling the scrambled data, the descrambling data being stored in an IC card, and said descrambling means descrambles the scrambled bitstream in accordance with the descrambling data read by said read means.
6. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises read means for reading selection data for selecting the object, the selection data being stored in an IC card, and said selection means selects the predetermined object from the plurality of objects in accordance with the selection data read by said read means.
7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of objects include at least a video object.
8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the plurality of objects include at least an audio object.

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9. An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the plurality of objects include at least a scene description object.

5 10. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising
monitor means for monitoring the object data synthesized by said synthesis means.

10 11. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising
communication means for performing data communication with an external device, said communication device transmitting, to said external
15 device, information representing that the bitstream is decoded.

20 12. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said communication means performs data communication through the Internet.

sub a3
25 13. A decoding method comprising the steps of:
inputting a bitstream obtained by coding a plurality of object data in units of objects and
multiplexing the coded data;
separating coded data of each object from the bitstream;

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e) synthesis processing of synthesizing the decoded object data.